

ening its influence, and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people of all colors everywhere."

Indeed, this bold experiment in self-government has inspired more than 200 years of striving for true justice and freedom. From the beginning, there was a dissonance between the plain meaning of our creed and the reality of American life, and constitutional history reflects the vital changes wrought by amendments, civil war, and tremendous social transformations. Emancipation, women's suffrage, civil rights, voting rights—all these began as the struggles of citizens who joined together to push our Nation toward the ideals enshrined in our Constitution and whose efforts were encouraged by the Constitution itself.

In honor of the paramount importance of the Constitution in setting forth the fundamental doctrines of our country and in recognition of the role each American must play in bringing these words to life, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 153), designated September 17 as "Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 159), requested the President to proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 1995, as Citizenship Day and September 17 through September 23, 1995, as Constitution Week. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, educational, and religious organizations, to conduct meaningful ceremonies and programs in their schools, churches, and other community gathering places to foster a better understanding of the Constitution and the rights and duties of citizenship.

I further call upon the officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on September 17, 1995, in honor of Citizenship Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6826 of September 21, 1995

Gold Star Mother's Day, 1995

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Countless Americans have traveled to Washington, D.C., to visit the new Korean War Veterans Memorial and to pay their respects at the many other monuments honoring the members of our Armed Forces. These sites are places for reflection, pride, and patriotism, not only for the men and women who served and those who lost loved ones, but also for every citizen who values the sacrifices to which these monuments bear witness.

As we look upon America's public memorials, we also remember the unseen tributes that dwell in homes and hearts across the country—the personal mementos and memories treasured by mothers who have lost a child in military service. Our Gold Star Mothers reflect the legacy of their sons' and daughters' bravery and ensure that their children will never be forgotten—that their courage will inspire new generations.

Watching a beloved child go off to war is one of the hardest things a parent can endure. America's Gold Star Mothers proudly stood this test and suffered the terrible anxiety of waiting for word of their loved ones. Each of these heroic women was also called upon to bear the greatest hardship of all—the cruel truth that her son or daughter would never return.

These mothers gave their most cherished gift so that our Nation could live in liberty and so that people around the globe could be freed from tyranny and oppression. And Gold Star Mothers continue a proud tradition of service, helping veterans with disabilities through voluntary service in VA medical facilities. Bringing comfort to those who suffered for our country, Gold Star Mothers exemplify the gratitude and honor each citizen owes to America's veterans.

This year, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, evokes many powerful emotions—pride in victory, sorrow in loss, and hope for a future of world peace. At times such as these, we join with Gold Star Mothers in remembering their children's dedication to duty and their ultimate sacrifice. We pray that these mothers can find solace in knowing that their sons and daughters helped to keep the beacon of peace and freedom burning, lighting the way to a better world.

In recognition of the outstanding courage of our Gold Star Mothers, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 24, 1995, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon the American people to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor our Gold Star Mothers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON